Jagatguru Sree Narayana Guru (1856–1928)

The Mahatma of Kerala – Social Reformer, Advaita Jnani & Poet-Saint

******

Info is given under following headings:

His birthplace, parents, birth and childhood, education, spiritual inclination.. aby special incidents during childhood? His guru, training under the guru, sadhana, siddhi, teachings, establishing the ashram, travels, miracles if any, ashrams elsewhere in India and abroad, routines , poojas or rituals in the ashrams, publications by the Guru, donation info, any other info…like..photos, videos, meeting with Mahatma Gandhi..etc

****

Birthplace

Chempazhanthy village, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala (12 km north of the city).

Parents

Father : Madan Asan (Ezhava scholar and village teacher)
Mother : Kutti Amma

Birth and Childhood

Born: 20 August 1856 (Chingam 1032 ME, Chathayam star)

Original name: Narayanan → affectionately called “Nanu”.

At birth, the infant did not cry; he calmly opened his eyes and smiled, astonishing everyone.

Special Incidents During Childhood

Age 5–6: Fell into sudden samadhi while playing; villagers thought he was unconscious.

Strongly opposed animal sacrifice; once threw away a chicken meant for temple offering,

saying “God does not drink blood”.

Spent hours in solitary meditation on riverbanks.

Education

Traditional village school → Sanskrit, Tamil, Ayurveda, Siddha medicine, astrology, Vedanta, logic, rhetoric and poetry under renowned scholars including Kummampilli Raman Pillai Asan.

Spiritual Inclination

Total renunciation from youth; left home at 22, lived as a wandering mendicant (Parivrajaka), practised severe austerities in forests and caves.

His Guru & Training

Primary association: Thycaud Ayyavu Swamigal (initiated him into yoga and "Om" mantra). Close spiritual friendship and mutual recognition with Chattampi Swamigal (1853–1924).

Spent years in intense tapas at Pillathadam cave (Marutwa Mala), Aruvippuram, and other secluded spots.

Sadhana & Siddhi

8 years of rigorous tapas in caves.

Attained Self-realisation (Aparoksha Jnana).

People began experiencing his divine aura; incurable diseases were healed by his mere touch or darshan.

Teachings (Core Message)

- "One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man"
- "Whatever be one's religion, it is enough if the person is good"
- "Ask not, say not, think not caste"
- "Acts that free others from bondage are the true worship of God"

Establishing the Ashram

1888 : Consecrated the historic Shiva linga at Aruvippuram (defying caste rules).

1898 : Founded Sivagiri Mutt (headquarters) at Varkala.

Established over 50 temples and ashrams where anyone, irrespective of caste or religion, could enter and worship.

Travels

Extensive travels across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka (1904, 1917, 1924), and even a brief visit to Madras and Bangalore.

1924: All-Kerala Fraternity Meet at Alwaye → formation of SNDP Yogam.

Miracles (Well-documented)

- Aruvippuram Shiva consecration: the stone he picked from the river turned into a perfect linga.
- Healing leprosy and mental illness by touch.
- Making rain stop instantly during public meetings.
- Appearing simultaneously at different places (reported by disciples).

Ashrams Elsewhere in India & Abroad

India: Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Thrissur, Kannur, Kochi, Thalassery, Kozhikode, and centres in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra, Mumbai, etc.

Sri Lanka: Several Narayana Guru temples and SNDP branches established during his visits.

Other countries: Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Fiji, and Gulf countries have SNDP/Sivagiri organisations and temples.

Routines & Poojas/Rituals in the Ashrams

Simple, caste-free worship.
Morning & evening deeparadhana, bhajans, nivedyam.
No animal sacrifice ever.
Sivagiri follows a strict daily timetable: 4:30 am wake-up, meditation, cleaning, study, community work, evening prayers.

Publications by the Guru (selected)

Atmopadesa Śatakam (100 verses on Self-instruction)
Daiva Daśakam (10 verses of universal prayer)
Anukampa Daśakam, Jati Mimamsa, Darśana Mala, Brahmavidya Panchakam, etc.
Translations of Thirukkural and Ishavasya Upanishad
Total: 58 works in Malayalam, Sanskrit and Tamil.

Donation Info

Official body: Sivagiri Mutt, Varkala
Bank transfers & online donations: https://www.sivagiri.org/donate
UPI ID and account details are updated on the official site and SNDP Yogam portals.

Any Other Important Info

Founded SNDP Yogam (1903) – the largest social organisation of Kerala.
Sarvamata Sammelanam (1924) – all-religion conference.

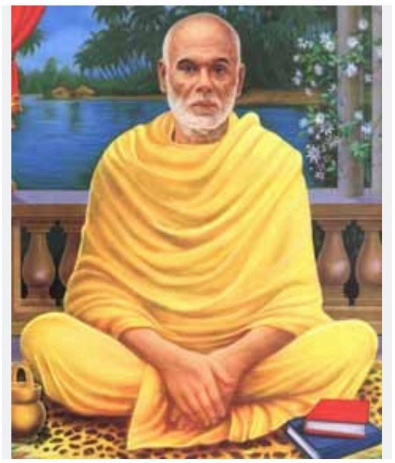
Annual Sivagiri Pilgrimage (Dec 30–Jan 1) attracts millions wearing yellow attire.
Declared as “Jagatguru” by disciples and Mahatma Gandhi visited him in 1925.

Merged with the Infinite on 20 September 1928 at Sivagiri.

May this sacred documentation become another priceless offering at the Lotus Feet of Sree Narayana Guru

*****

Photos



Sri Narayana Guru

Sri Narayana Guru Temple

Sivagiri Narayana Guru Temple

VARKALA SIVAGIRI MUTT – NARAYANA GURU ASHRAM
MOST IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL PLACE IN KERALA
NARAYANA GURU – POWERFUL SOCIAL REFORMER OF KERALA
NARAYANA GURU JEEVA SAMADHI

Sri Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi

Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi met at Sivagiri Mutt on March 12, 1925, to discuss critical social issues like the Vaikom Satyagraha, religious conversions, the abolition of untouchability, and non-violence. This historic conversation is considered a landmark in India's social reform movement, focusing on the upliftment of the downtrodden and shaping the nation's social and moral fabric.

- **Date and Location:** The meeting took place on March 12, 1925, at Sivagiri Mutt in Kerala.
- **Topics of Discussion:** The conversation covered key issues such as:
    - The Vaikom Satyagraha, a movement to end the practice of untouchability.
    - Religious conversions.
    - The principle of non-violence.
    - The abolition of untouchability.
    - The attainment of salvation.
    - The upliftment of the downtrodden.

- **Significance:** The dialogue is seen as having provided new direction to the freedom movement and was a pivotal moment for India's social and moral development. It highlighted a shared vision for social justice and unity between the two leaders.

*****

YouTube Videos

Kudroli Sri Gokarnanatheshwara Temple, Mangalore - consecrated by Sri Narayana Guru in 1912 (8 min):

https://youtu.be/M_O_gvf_Cnk?si=EhicoB8kT5F8RqOx

*****

Kudroli Sri Gokarnanatheshwara Temple, Mangalore (5 min):

https://youtu.be/EGpcaLeMb_I?si=W2EfhZ5k2HGB5AKm

****

Kudroli Sri Gokarnanatheshwara Temple, Mangalore (11 mjn):

https://youtu.be/-_YiYd03HkU?si=xyzLWY2zdsoLM-h4

****

Kudroli Sri Gokarnanatheshwara Kshetra (7 min):

https://youtu.be/8PcPJBeUEpU?si=e078aDaIP7hoJiYH

******

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

December 4, 2025

******